

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAR ES 03112 031059Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /075 W
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P R 031025Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5789
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 3112

USIA FOR IOP/M

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (NYERERE, JULIUS K.), TZ, US
SUBJECT: NYERERE'S VISIT TO THE US: TANZANIAN ATTITUDES

REF: DAR ES SALAAM 3088, 3090

SUMMARY. ON THE EVE OF PRESIDENT NYERERE'S ARRIVAL IN THE US, TANZANIANS APPEAR CONFUSED ABOUT THE TRIP. THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRESS HAS ATTEMPTED TO ESTABLISH A RATIONALE FOR THE VISIT. YEARS OF FIERCE IDEOLOGICAL CONFRONTATION, HOWEVER, SEEM TO HAVE LEFT EVEN SENIOR TANGOV OFFICIALS UNPREPARED TO SEE THEIR PRESIDENT VENTURE INTO THE CAMP OF THE ENEMY. THEY ARE LIKELY TO WAIT WITHOUT COMMENT UNTIL NYERERE RETURNS, EXPECTING THAT HE WILL REASSURE THEM OR SET A NEW COURSE. END SUMMARY.

1. TANZANIA'S GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PRESS HAS BEEN PREPARING TANZANIANS FOR NYERERE'S VISIT TO THE US. THE TRIP HAS BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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DESCRIBED AS AN OPPORTUNITY "TO EXPLAIN THE THEORY AND PRATICE OF THE AFRICAN REVOLUTION." THE NEW ADMINISTRATION IN THE POST-VIETNAM AND POST-WATERGATE US IS "BEST SUITED TO REMOVE SOME OF THE UNNECESSARY FEARS AND SUSPICIONS OF SMALL UNDERDEVELOPED COUNTRIES LIKE TANZANIA." AN EDITORIAL IN A PARTY WEEKLY NOTED THAT EVEN THOUGH ANY TWO STATES MIGHT HAVE MANY DIFFERENCES, THERE WOULD BE BASIS FOR AGREEMENT. TANZANIA AND US, FOR

EXAMPLE, HAVE OFFICIAL RELATIONS WHICH THEY HAVE AGREED TO STRENGTHEN. NYERERE'S VISIT TO US WAS AT A TIME WHEN SOUTHERN AFRICAN CONFLICT WAS ESCALATING. IT WAS THEREFORE A GOOD THING THAT NYERERE WAS GOING TO EXCHANGE IDEAS WITH AMERICAN LEADERS. IT WAS ALSO GOOD THAT NYERERE, ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT LEADERS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD, WOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN TANZANIA'S CONCERNS WITH THE PRESENT INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. THIS GAVE NYERERE'S TRIP "SINGULAR IMPORTANCE."

2. APART FROM CONSTRUCTIVE PRESS TREATMENT AND NYERERE'S OWN ENTHUSIASM, THERE IS LITTLE WITH WHICH TO MEASURE TANZANIAN ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE VISIT. EXCEPTING A FEW FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH THE VISIT, WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO ELICIT EVEN THE MOST CURSORY COMMENT ON THE TRIP FROM TANGOV OFFICIALS. SENIOR TANGOV OFFICIALS PRESENT AT NYERERE'S DEPARTURE APPEARED CONFUSED, EVEN EMBARRASSED, ABOUT THEIR PRESIDENT'S TRIP. THIS INCLUDED MINISTERS NOT AT ALL UNFAMILIAR WITH OR UNAPPRECIATIVE OF THE US.

3. AT ANOTHER LEVEL, EMBASSY HAS HEARD THAT THOSE TANZANIANS UNHAPPY WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S SOCIALIST POLICIES TEND TO BELIEVE THAT NYERERE'S TRIP WILL PROMPT TANZANIA TO MOVE TOWARD THE WEST AND CAPITALISM.

4. COMMENT. THE APPARENT CONFUSION AMONG TANGOV OFFICIALS AND THE HOPE AMONG HIS OPPONENTS THAT NYERERE'S VISIT TO THE CONFIDENTIAL

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"CITADEL OF CAPITALISM" WILL CAUSE A MARKED CHANGE IN HIS PHILOSOPHY WOULD SEEM TO UNDERSCORE THE DEPTH OF THE IDEOLOGICAL CONFRONTATION FOSTERED BY NYERERE. IT ALSO POINTS UP THE PRIMACY OF NYERERE'S IDEOLOGY IN SHAPING TANZANIAN ATTITUDES. NYERERE HAS NOT TAUGHT TANZANIANS TO DO THINGS BY HALVES. THE GOVERNMENT WHICH HE DIRECTS ALMOST SINGLE-HANDEDLY HAS FOR YEARS INDOCTRINATED TANZANIANS TO REGARD THE US AS THE SOURCE OF THE WORLD'S EVILS. IN TANZANIAN PERCEPTIONS, IT WOULD BE ALL RIGHT FOR MINISTERS AND OTHERS TO DEAL WITH THE US AS NECESSARY, BUT APPARENTLY SOMETHING QUITE DIFFERENT FOR NYERERE TO GO TO THE CAMP OF THE ENEMY. IT WOULD BE CHARACTERISTIC OF NYERERE'S RELATIONSHIP WITH HIS CABINET TO FOREGO EXPLAINING WHY HE WANTED TO VISIT THE US. IT WOULD BE CHARACTERISTIC OF HIM AS WELL TO RETURN AND SAY THE TRIP WENT WELL, WE CAN NOW WORK WITH THE AMERICANS, LEAVING HIS FOLLOWERS TO BRIDGE A GAP NOT PROVIDED FOR IN MWALIMU'S TEACHINGS.

5. THE ABOVE MESSAGE WAS DRAFTED BY POLITICAL OFFICER DAVID HALSTED.
WATERMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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Type: TE
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